GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:698
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2017
Scarcity of Drinking Water
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Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some areas of the country are facing scarcity of drinking water despite the implementation of Drinking Water Schemes in the country and as a result people are forced to carry water from far away places and even forced to drink contaminated water;
(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government;
(c) whether the Government has fixed any responsibility on officers for such scarcity of drinking water;
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the State-wise funds provided by the Government for drinking water in the country during each of last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) & (b) Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), this Ministry provides technical & financial assistance to states to improve the coverage of safe drinking water in rural areas. The responsibility of implementation & execution of various water supply scheme under the programme lies with the State.
Currently as per the information furnished by the State in the web portal of the Ministry, 23.44 % of total rural population is being provided less than the norm of 40 litres per capita per day and 5.65 % of rural population do not have access to safe drinking water. Thus about 29.09 % of rural population is facing scarcity of drinking water. As a long term solution, this Ministry has directed the States to cover the rural households with Piped Water Supply with sustainable safe source. This Ministry has prepared a Strategic Plan for providing drinking water supply in rural areas of the country for the period 2011-2022. By 2022, the goal is to cover 90% of rural households with piped water supply. To achieve this, the States have been advised to pool more funds from State plan in view of the enhanced devolution of funds under the 14th Finance Commission and to arrange external assistance or loan from lending institution over and above the funding from the Ministry under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). In arsenic & fluoride affected habitations, the Ministry has advised the States to provide 8 to 10 litres per capita per day by installing community water purification plants. In 2017-18, there is an allocation of Rs.6050 Crores under NRDWP and till 17.07.2017, an amount of Rs. 1170.44 Crores has already been released to State Governments.
(c) to (e) Providing drinking water supply to the rural population is a dynamic and continuous process. Under the NRDWP, States Governments are empowered to plan, design, approve and implement rural drinking water supply schemes. The responsibility of the implementation & the execution of the schemes under the Programme lies with the State. Under NRDWP, the State-wise details of funds provided to the States for drinking water in the country during last three years and current year are at Annexure.